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Indiana (Laws 1915, p. 359), North Carolina (Laws 1915, p. 157) and Vermont (Laws 1915 p. 66—subject to referendum in 1916) in connection with the primary laws enacted in those States. Kansas (Laws 1915, pp. 179, 266–267), Nevada (Laws 1915, pp. 82, 376), New Hampshire (Laws 1915, p. 234), Nebraska (Laws 1915, p. 105) and Ohio (Laws 1915, p. 350) modify their corrupt practice laws, usually strengthening them by making them more definite. The amount of campaign expenditures seems to occasion the most concern, and in this respect there is a tendency to raise the limit.

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**Legislative Investigations Authorized.** A special commission in Illinois will continue the work of the commission provided for in 1913 to revise the building laws of the State.

A new efficiency and economy commission consisting of four senators and four representatives was provided for in Illinois to continue the work of the former commission in preparing "a comprehensive survey of all public officers and authorities" to investigate the efficiency of all organizations and administration and to make recommendations and prepare plans for the consolidation, coördination and reorganization of such public bodies. Illinois also provided for a special commission to investigate the causes for the spread of the foot and mouth disease.

Another investigation in Illinois will be on the subject of the operation of state pension laws including the operation of similar laws in other States and countries. The subject of home-finding institutions will also be investigated in Illinois by a special committee.

Unemployment will be further investigated in Illinois continuing the work of a former commission.

Minnesota provided for a commission on interstate drainage in conjunction with a similar commission from the State of Iowa.

Michigan created a commission to investigate the existing system of public care and relief of poor persons.

Massachusetts provided for several investigations by special commissions and by administrative authorities.

The highway commission will investigate the subject of lights on motor vehicles. The health department will report upon the question of reimbursing the cities and towns for hospital care of tuberculous persons. The board of gas and electric light commissioners are directed to report on automatic means of shutting off gas from buildings

in case of fire, and on the inspection and testing of gas meters and in the London sliding scale of charges. The secretary of the commonwealth and the attorney-general report upon the feasibility and desirability of legislation providing for absent voting. The commission on probation will report upon the administration of the juvenile law. The public service commission is directed to make a report on the expediency of legislation relating to extension telephone and telephone charges.

The Massachusetts highway commission will report on highway construction relative to the safety of horses and horse-drawn vehicles. A special commission appointed by the governor is directed to report upon the subject of military education for boys and of creating a militia reserve. Another special commission will revise and codify the laws relating to highways. A third special commission in Massachusetts will investigate and report as to the advisability of changes in the laws relative to taxation and to draft bills carrying out their recommendations.

A special commission to be known as the terminal commission will consider the improvement of the transportation of freight in the metropolitan districts.

The large number of investigations provided for in Massachusetts caused the legislature to pass an act to provide that whenever such commissions are created, they shall report their findings together with drafts of bills.

Delaware provided for a commission to investigate the sale of milk in the State of Delaware and another commission to investigate the need of education in the agricultural, industrial, home and commercial occupations. A joint commission with the State of New Jersey will consider modifications of the laws relating to the taking of fish in the Delaware River.

Vermont provided for a commission to report in detail upon the question of conservation of flood waters. The commission is to receive propositions for the construction of storage reservoirs to be submitted to the next general assembly. Vermont also provided for the revision of the public statutes by a commissioner to be appointed by the justices of the supreme court. A special commission in Vermont will report upon the system of courts. This commission is to consist of two lawyers and three laymen. A revision of the rules of the senate and house was also entrusted to a special commission consisting of the president and secretary of the senate and the speaker and clerk of the house.

Utah provided for a commission to investigate provisions for the feeble-minded. Utah also provided for a commission to report on the subject of employer's liability and another commission to be known as the irrigation and water-rights commission to make an investigation with respect to irrigation and water-rights and to study the irrigation and water-right laws of other States.

Rhode Island created a commission of agricultural inquiry to inquire into the agricultural resources of the State and to recommend such legislation as may be necessary to encourage and assist agriculture. The commission created in 1914 to report on the condition, welfare and industrial opportunities of immigrants and aliens, was extended to January, 1916.

Pennsylvania provided for the codification of the laws relating to decedent estates and also directed the legislative reference bureau to continue its codification of the laws of the State. A commission was provided for in Pennsylvania to investigate the increase in the cost of anthracite coal alleged to be due to the tax imposed thereon. In Pennsylvania the governor, attorney-general and auditor-general are constituted a commission to be known as the economy and efficiency commission to continue the investigation of the administration of all state departments and institutions. The commission on the recording of deeds, mortgages and transfers was continued until the next session. A joint committee of the senate and house of representatives in Pennsylvania will report on the methods of legislation particularly relating to legislation concerning government of cities, boroughs and townships.

New Jersey provided for a commission to revise, simplify, arrange and consolidate the primary and election laws of the State. Another commission will investigate the question of pensions for officers and municipal employees. The committees on highways of the senate and house of New Jersey were directed to report at the next session a codification and revision of the laws relating to the improvement of public roads with state aid.

Indiana provided for a special commission to report on the subject of taxation. Another committee will report on mothers' pensions. The governor has appointed an unofficial commission to investigate the subject of the care of mental defectives. Separate commissions will revise the laws relating to public health and mining.

California provided for an investigation of taxation and of unemployment. California also provided for a commission to report on the subject of rural credits and colonization.

Idaho provided a commission to investigate the wages of women and minors.

New York authorized an investigation of taxation by a special commission.

Wisconsin created a commission to review laws relating to public lands, including forest lands, and to submit to the next legislature a bill providing for eliminating the inconsistencies in such statutes, bringing them into harmony with the decisions of the supreme court and providing for the efficient administration of such lands.

**Special Municipal Corporations.** In a former number of the *REVIEW* (November, 1914) a classified list, amplified by a brief description, was given of the special municipal corporations which had been created by legislative enactment during 1913. The utilization of this convenient and flexible agency for the promotion of public enterprises is so manifest that it is not surprising to discover that the legislative year, 1915, has witnessed a large number of fresh creations, although the most notable characteristics of this important political tendency, which has now fully established itself as a public habit, is in the multiplicity rather than the diversity of the corporations created. The traditional types predominate, although two or three new types, analogous in structure, but anomalous in purpose and design have made their appearance. An analysis of the purposes of these rapidly multiplying corporations supplies unequivocal evidence of the growing popularity of public ownership of service supplying utilities, and the practical expression of the gregarious and civic instincts. These corporations are of two general classes: Specific creations organized by special acts, and those authorized by general law, permissive in character. An examination of the statutes of 32 states and political jurisdictions discloses the fact that 36 general laws have been passed authorizing the creation of special municipal corporations, while 50 districts were created by special acts. Among the prevailing types, the list includes districts designed to reclaim swamp and arid lands, to facilitate the general diffusion of knowledge, to provide for the extinction of fires, to supply water for domestic, manufacturing and other purposes, to provide for the erection and maintenance of bridges, to construct and maintain roads, to prevent the encroachment of the sea on tide water lands, to provide for the disposition of sewage, to install lighting systems, to control floods and regulate rivers, to eradicate horticultural pests, and to suppress tuberculosis. Only two new types have appeared. In